

JUST THE FACTS:

Teen Risky Sexual Behavior in Milwaukee – data section only

by Capri-Mara Fillmore, Benjamin Jones, Kathy Blair and Vivian Chen

City of Milwaukee Health Department
Bevan K. Baker, CHE, Commissioner of Health

Introduction

The teen birth rate in Milwaukee is one of the highest city rates among all the industrial nations in the world. Teen pregnancy has a negative impact on educational attainment, physical and mental health, and financial well-being of the teen parent. The infants of teen mothers are more apt to die during their first year and/or be born prematurely (prematurity has been associated with physical and mental developmental delays and disabilities in the infant). Risky sexual behavior is common among school-age adolescents in Milwaukee, and is reflective in their high rates of intercourse, intercourse with four or more partners, high rates of sexually transmitted infections among teens, and inconsistent use of contraceptives. The reductions of teen pregnancy and risky sexual behavior have been identified as a priority health issue in the City of Milwaukee.

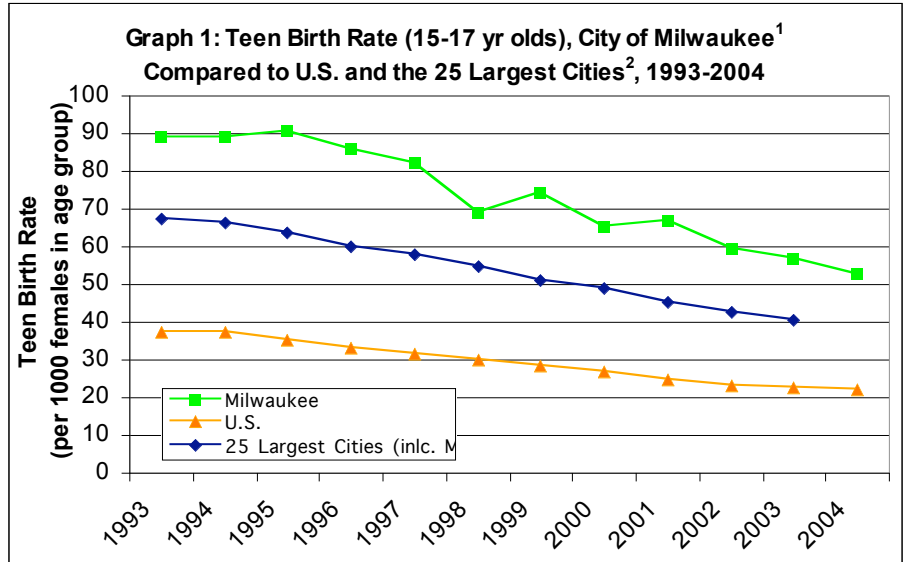
Data Methodology Notes:

A challenge when calculating teen birth rates for Milwaukee is the lack of denominator data (in this case, the number of teens) on non-census years. The teen birth rate is the number of teens who gave birth/1,000 teen females. Thus, all trend graphs and data for non-census years estimate the average rate of change from 1990-2000 and project that rate forward to 2004 (these rates will be corrected when the 2010 census data are available). In Milwaukee, Hispanic and Hmong populations are particularly dynamic and changing, and this method helps correct for any population change. Nonetheless, rates for Hispanic births for Milwaukee, as in other cities, are more apt to be overestimated because undocumented populations are less likely to be counted in the census (so denominator data will be lower than actual numbers). Rates given for 15-17 or 15-19-year-old girls throughout this paper include births to girls less than 15 years old in the numerator.

An unusual average of rates between 1996-2004 (nine years) is used, both to have numbers large enough for the smaller ethnic groups, and so that the 2000 census can be used as the denominator, hence making it the most accurate rate estimate. Data for these findings come primarily from City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) birth records. Additionally, data come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), a database which captures data on priority health risk behaviors among youth in the United States. Milwaukee has participated in a weighted YRBS sample since 2003.

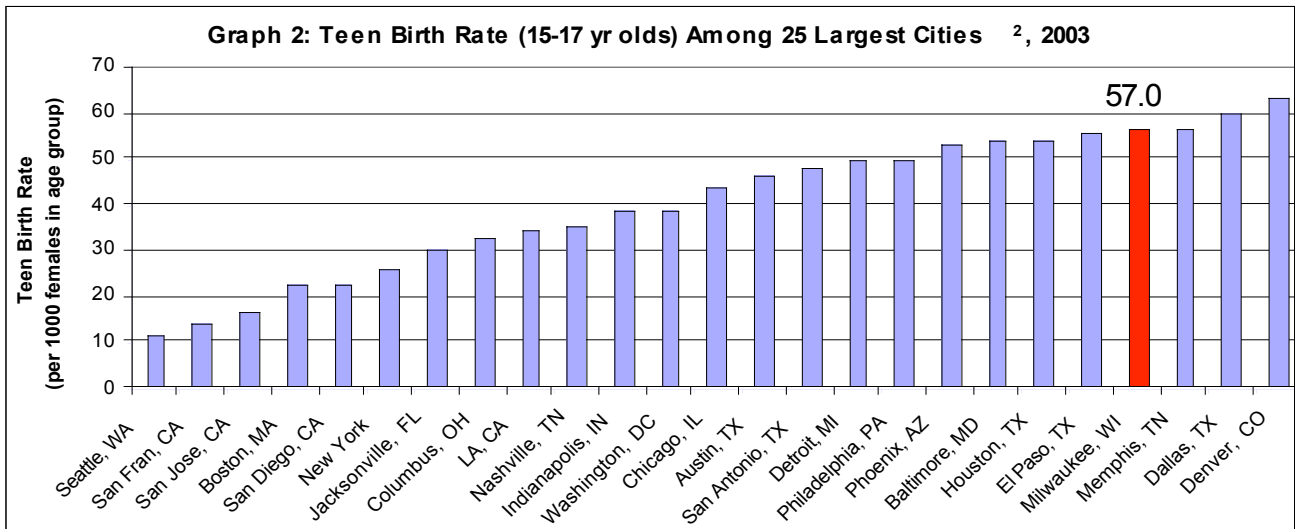
City of Milwaukee: Teen Pregnancy Rate and National Rankings

- Between 1993 and 2004, a steady decrease in teen birth rates is shown in Graph 1 for the US, the 25 largest cities, and Milwaukee
- In 2004, Milwaukee's teen birth rate for 15-17-year-old females is 53 per 1,000 females (704 births) and 76 per 1,000 females for 15-19-year-olds (1,854 births)¹
- In 2004, 5.3% of Milwaukee's 15-17 year olds gave birth, and approximately 14% of Milwaukee's 17-year-olds have already given birth¹



(CDC, 2003; CDC 2005)

- In 2003, Milwaukee was ranked 4th worst among the 25 largest cities for rate of births to girls under 18 years old² (see graph 2 below)
- In 2004, 25.2% (467) of teen births (under age 20) and 12.5% (88) of teen births (under age 18) were to women who had previously given birth¹. In 2002, Milwaukee ranked 4th worst among the 25 largest cities and 6th worst among the 50 largest cities in percentage of teen births to women who already had a birth³
- In 2004, 6.4% of all the births in the city were to teens under age 18 and 17% were to teens under age 20¹. In 2003, Milwaukee ranked 4th worst among the 25 largest cities for percent of total births to teens under 20²

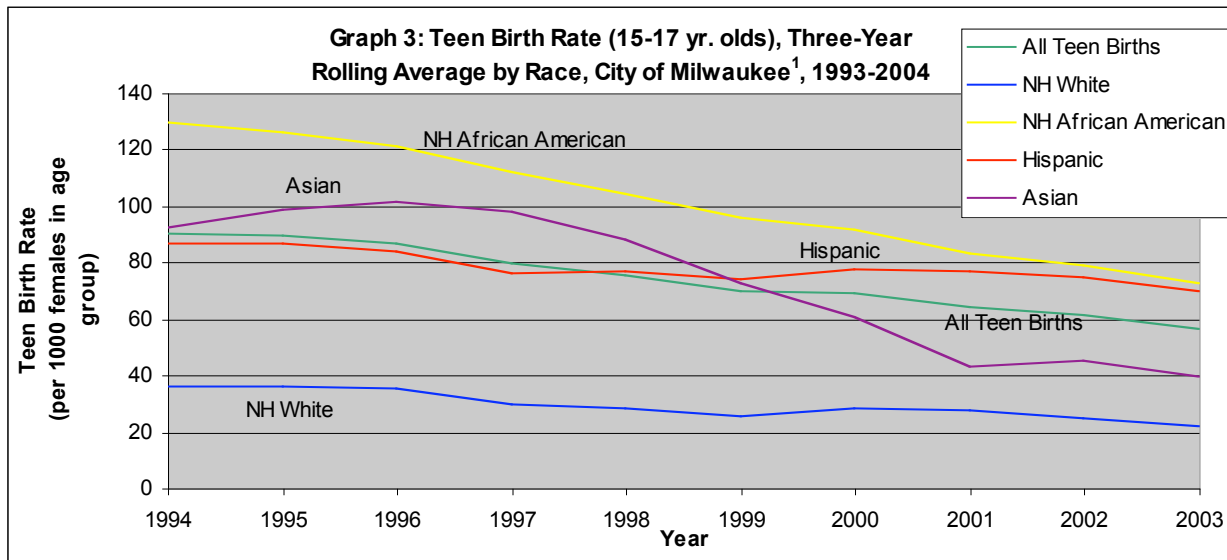


¹ Calculated by City of Milwaukee Health Department from birth certificate files, 1993 – 2004

² Calculated by City of Milwaukee Health Department from CDC Natality Data Sets (1993-2003) and U.S. Census, 1990 & 2000 (population denominators for 1993-2004 were estimated by average rate of change from 1990-2000)

³ Data from Annie E. Casey, 2005 The Right Start for America's Newborns: City and State Trends (1990 – 2002)

Milwaukee: Teen Birth Rate by Race



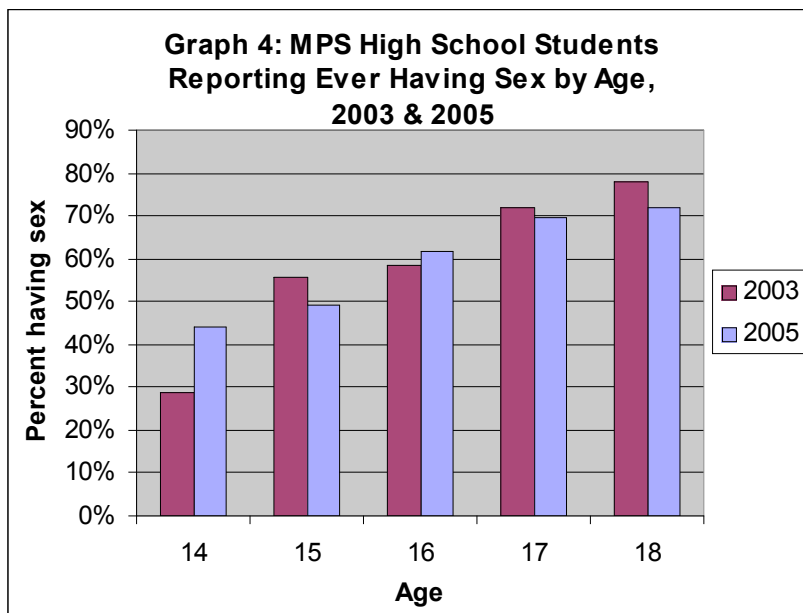
- Despite a decreasing teen birth rate between 1994 – 2003, the African Americans continue to have the highest teen birth rates in Milwaukee. (see graph 3)
- Trends based on the three-year rolling averages, show that the Hispanic teen birth rate has decreased only slightly since 1994. By 2003, rates for Hispanics became nearly identical to that of African Americans. (see graph 3)
- If our projected denominator trends are correct, teen pregnancy rates for Hispanics in Milwaukee will surpass African Americans within the next few years. However, since the numbers of African Americans remain higher than Hispanics, their births will continue to outnumber the births to Hispanics for many years.

Race	15-17 year olds teen birth rate 1996-2004 (no. in 2004)	15-19 year olds teen birth rate 1996-2004 (no. in 2004)	15-19 year olds repeat teen birth rate 1996-2004 (no. in 2004)	Percent of teen births <20 yrs. old that are repeat 1996-2004
NH White	26.9 (64)	37.0 (226)	6.9 (40)	19 %
NH African American	91.3 (465)	130.3 (1158)	38.7 (314)	30 %
Hispanic	74.0 (148)	108.5 (380)	26.8 (91)	25 %
NH Asian/PI				
- Hmong and Laotian	68.2 (17)	89.0 (54)	32.4 (15)	36 %
- All other Asian/PI	46.4 (2)	67.7 (16)	20.2 (4)	30 %
NH American Indian	74.6 (8)	99.6 (20)	21.5 (3)	22 %
Total	67.9 (704)	89.6 (1840)	24.5 (467)	27 %
*teen birth rate = number of births in given age group/1,000 females in given age group				

- The following percentage of school-age children, by race/ethnicity, were born to teen mothers (<18 years old) – with associated educational, social and developmental delays:
 - NH African Americans – 10.6%
 - NH American Indian – 9.4%
 - Hispanic – 7.5%
 - NH Asian/PI – 5.5%
 - NH White – 2.3%
- Numbers of births to American Indians are too small to show a trend, but their 9-year averaged rates are high. Although the American Indian population in Milwaukee is small, they are second only to African Americans in percent of births to teens.
- The relatively high rates of teen births among Asians and Pacific Islanders compared to Whites are primarily among the Hmong and Laotian population. In the Hmong and Laotian population, 40% of teen births (<18) are to women in marriage, compared to only 3% of teen births in all other races/ethnicities combined.¹

Milwaukee: Evidence of Teen Sexual Risk Taking - YRBS 2005 (YRBS, 2006)

The YRBS include questions on sexual behaviors that contribute to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. The following highlights teen sexual risk taking behavior in Milwaukee:



(CDC, 2004; YRBS 2006)

- 12.2% (2,858)⁴ of MPS students reported their first sexual intercourse occurred by age 12
- 59.1% (13,846)⁴ of all MPS high school students report having sexual intercourse
- 22.8% (5,342)⁴ of MPS high school students report having sexual intercourse with four or more partners in their lifetime
- 31.5% (7,380)⁴ of sexually active MPS high school students did not use a condom during last sexual intercourse.

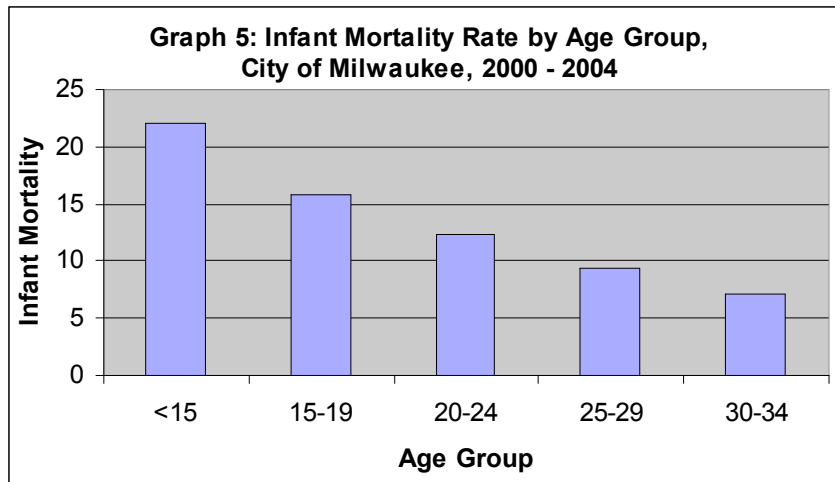
- Between 2003 and 2005, essentially no change occurred in the percent of MPS high school students reporting ever having sex. (see graph 4)

Milwaukee: Associated Health and Social Consequences

- In 2004, 14.5% of teen pregnancies (<18 yrs old) resulted in low birth weight (<2500gm) babies – much worse than the 11% low birth weight citywide⁵
- In 2002, 38% of Milwaukee teen mothers were at high risk for depression⁶, compared to 8-15% of most pregnant or postpartum women (*Fillmore, et al, 2004 and Perfetti, et al, 2004*)

⁴ Predicted number based on enrollment of 23,428 high school students

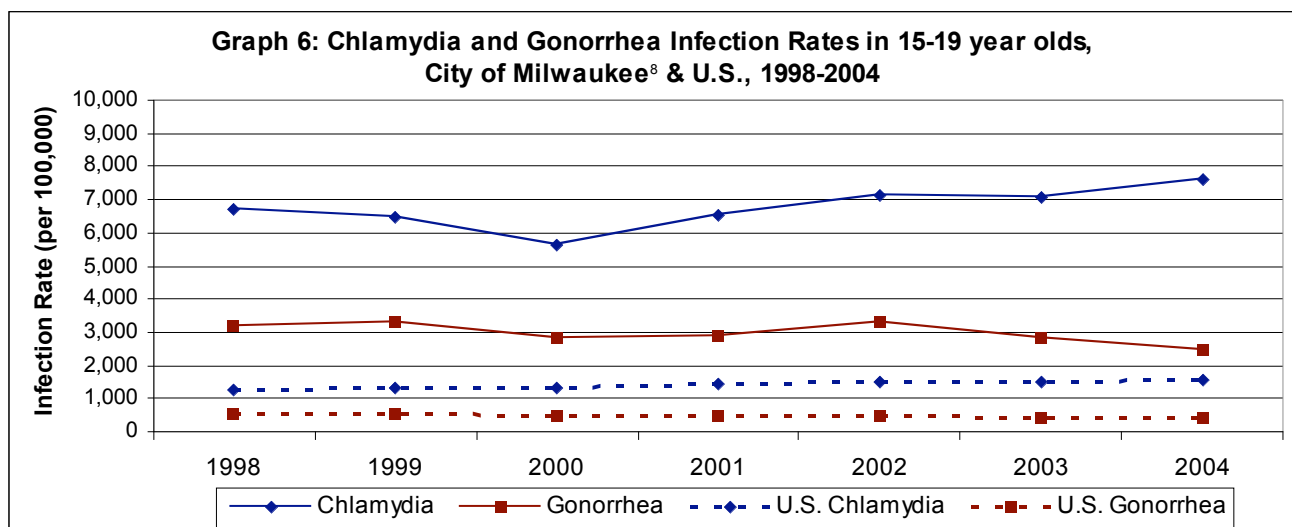
⁵ City of Milwaukee Health Department, birth certificate data, 2004.



- In 2004, 36.6% of teen pregnancies had no or late prenatal care compared to 20.3% citywide⁵
- Infants born to mothers less than 15 years old are over 3 times more likely to die during their first year of life than babies of mothers aged 30-34⁷ (see graph 5)

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Milwaukee

- Among 63 largest cities in 2004, Milwaukee was among the worst ranked for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea incidence (9th and 17th from the highest, respectively) (CDC, 2005).
- In 2004, the infection rate of Chlamydia in 15-19-year-olds was 7,600 per 100,000 (3,660 cases),⁸ and the infection rate of Gonorrhea in 15-19-year-olds was 2,467 per 100,000 (1,188 cases).⁸ Many cases of Gonorrhea and particularly Chlamydia go undiagnosed and therefore these rates are most likely underestimates.
- Using data from 1983 – 2004, an estimated 99 (18%) of the 559 people currently living with HIV/AIDS in Milwaukee were diagnosed between the ages of 13 and 19 years old.⁹
- The HIV/AIDS trend seems to be shifting towards diagnosis at younger ages in that 41 (21%) of the 197 people diagnosed in 2000 – 2004 were between the ages of 13 and 19 years old.⁹



(CDC, 2005a; CDC, 2003a)

⁶ City of Milwaukee Health Department Adolescent School Health Program, perinatal depression screening 2003.

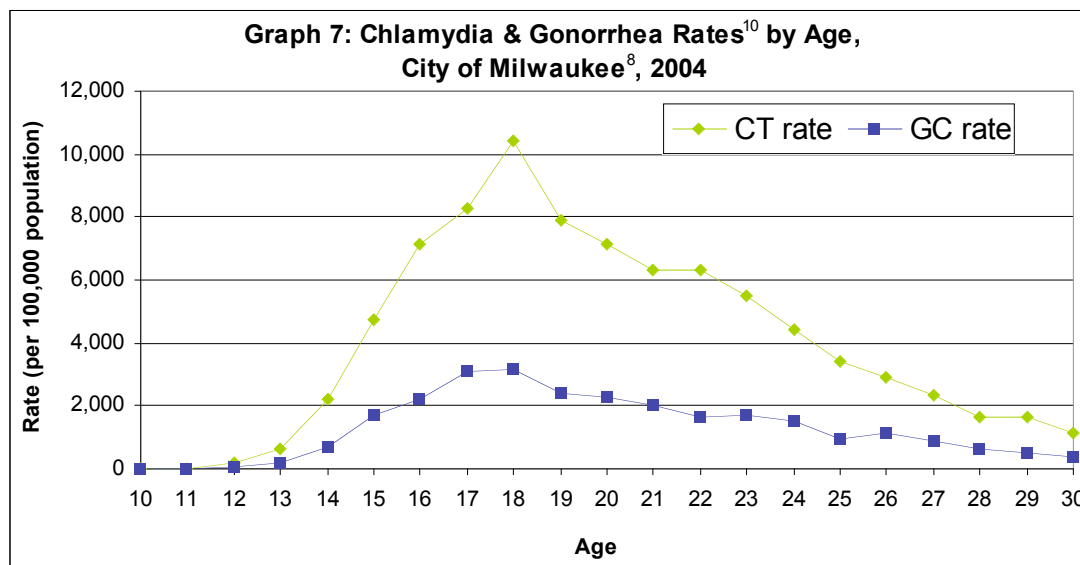
⁷ City of Milwaukee Health Department, Linked Birth and Death Certificate data, 1993-2003

⁸ Calculated from State of Wisconsin STD data and U.S. Census data, 2000 (population denominators for 1998 – 2004 were estimated by average rate of change from 1990 – 2000)

⁹ Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program Surveillance data, 1983-2004

¹⁰ Approximately 7% of Chlamydia and 6% of Gonorrhea patients were repeats

- Diagnosed Chlamydia incidence rates increased from 2000 – 2004, whereas incidence rates of diagnosed Gonorrhea essentially remained unchanged among Milwaukee teens since 1998. A similar trend can be seen in US teens as well. (see graph 6)



- In Milwaukee, infection rates of Gonorrhea are 6 times and infection rates of Chlamydia are 5 times the national average for US 15-19-year-olds.
- Highest infection rates of Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are found among 17-18-year-olds. (see graph 7)
- Rates of these STIs among 15 year olds are as high or higher than adults over 22 years old. (see graph 7)

References

- Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2005). *The Right Start for America's Newborns: City and State Trends (1990 – 2002)*. Kids Count. Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- CDC. (2003). Births: Final Data for 2002. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 52(10). US Department of Health and Human Services.
- CDC. (2003a). Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2002. US Department of Health and Human Services. Atlanta, GA.
- CDC. (2004). Surveillance Summaries, May 21, 2004. *MMWR*, 53(No. SS-2).
- CDC. (2005). Births: Preliminary Data for 2004. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 54(8). US Department of Health and Human Services.
- CDC. (2005a). Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance, 2004. US Department of Health and Human Services. Atlanta, GA.
- Fillmore CM, Cassidy E. (2004). Pregnancy-Related Depression in Milwaukee Schools. Presented to the American Public Health Association.
- Perfetti J, Clark R, Fillmore CM. (2004). Postpartum Depression: Identification, Screening, and Treatment. *Wisconsin Medical Journal*, 106(3): 56-63.
- YRBS (2006). Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005. Public use data set. City of Milwaukee Public High Schools



The City of Milwaukee Health Department in its capacity as an employer and service provider does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, gender, national origin, arrest or conviction record, sexual orientation, disability, political belief or affiliation, or military participation. Persons needing disability assistance information, language assistance or interpreter services please call 414-286-3524 or TTY 414-286-2025. Discrimination claims may be filed with the Department's Equal Opportunity Coordinator by calling 414-286-2359.